



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 049400-5024-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
Norio OTSUGA et al.)	Confirmation No.: 1149
Application No.: 10/697,798)	Group Art Unit: 3679
Filed: October 31, 2003)	Examiner: Unassigned
For: A DUCT CONNECTION ASSEMBLE)	
BETWEEN A BRANCH DUCT AND A)	
MAIN DUCT)	

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. To the undersigned knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-referenced application. The listed documents were previously cited in copending parent Application No. 10/297,400, filed on June 23, 2003, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the listed documents are not required to be provided.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO 1449 form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents does not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

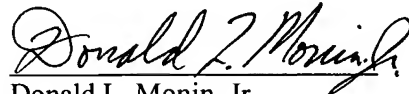
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: April 30, 2004

Customer No.: 09629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 739-3000

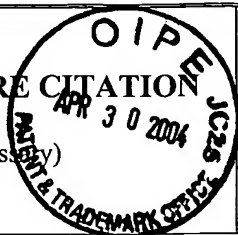


Donald L. Monin, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,256

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO Form 1449



Attorney Docket No.
049400-5024-02

Application No. 10/697,798

Applicants: Norio OTSUGA et al.

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Filing Date: October 31, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3679

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO
*	JP 1-307594 A	Dec. 12, 1989	Japan			
*	JP 3-121397 A	May 23, 1991	Japan			
*	JP 3-107697	May 8, 1991	Japan			
*	JP 4-194489	Sep. 13, 1995	Japan			
*	7-119884	May 12, 1995	Japan			X
*	1263523 B1	Oct. 6, 1961	France			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

CD-ROM of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 35296/1992 (Laid-open no. 94597/1993), (Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.), 24 December 1993.

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.